MARCH 1986 VOLUME 166, No. 3

CHILTON'S AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES SINCE 1895

COVER STORY

28 CHRYSLER'S PRACTICAL P-SHOOTERS
Up close with the new Plymouth Sundance and Dodge Shadow, Chrysler's niched econoclasts.

Chrysler's P-Cars. Dodge Shadow above.
Cover: Plymouth Sundance.

FEATURES

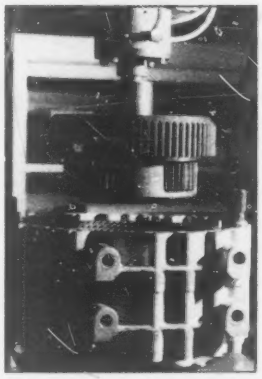
32 1986 TOTAL CAR COEFFICIENT
Chevy's imported econotwins take the brass ring for the second year running.

34 DETROIT DIESEL AUTOMATES THE AUTOMATIC TRANNY
Detroit Diesel Allison sets up a "skunk works" to rewrite the book on producing transmissions automatically.

38 FAST-TRACKING WITH HONDA'S US MANUFACTURING CHIEF
The president of Honda of America Manufacturing details the Marysville expansion, talks US carmaking and predicts the future in engine design.

43 MITI: CAGING JAPAN'S AUTOMOTIVE TIGERS
MITI's role in dealing with the virile Japanese auto industry at times seems closer to lion tamer than negotiator.

Total Car—p. 32



DDA Automation—p. 34

SPECIFICATIONS

46 US Passenger Car—Standard Engines
51 US Passenger Car—Optional Engines
52 US Passenger Car—Automatic Transmissions
53 US Passenger Car—Selected Body Dimensions
60 Imported Passenger Cars

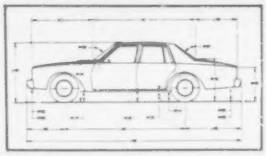
NEWS

Newsline: Foam Bumpers In US 5
Dateline: GM's Forthcoming L-Car 15

DEPARTMENTS

Editorial: No Wonder We're In Trouble 3
Callahan's Auto Report: Chrysler Wants New Contracts 8
Managing for Quality: Keep It Simple-Stupid 26
New Products What's Hot 71
Letters Spyflash! 76

GM Reorganization—p. 17



Specifications—p. 46

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1986 TOTAL CAR COEFFICIENT

Chevy's imported econotwins take the brass ring for the second year running.

by Lance Ealey

Econoboxes

.43 Chevy (Suzuki) Sprint, 5-spd man., 4-dr.
.39 Chevy (Isuzu) Spectrum, 5-spd man., H-back
.38 Subaru hatchback base
.36 Yugo GV* 4-spd man.
.34 Isuzu I-Mark, 5-spd man. H-back
.33 Mazda 323, 5-spd man., 4-door
.32 Dodge Omni, 1.6-Liter, 4-spd man.
.32 VW Golf, 1.8-L, 5-spd man.
.31 Ford Escort 1.9-L, 5-spd man.
.30 Nissan Sentra, 1.5-L, 5-spd. man., 4-door
.29 VW Golf diesel, 5-spd man.
.29 Encore GS 1.7-L, 5-spd man.
.28 Honda Civic, 1.5-L, 5-spd man., 2-door
.28 Toyota Tercel, 4-spd man.
.27 Hyundai Excel, 5-spd man.
.25 Chevy Nova, 5-spd man., hatchback
.23 Chevy Cavalier, 2.0-L, 5-spd man.
.22 Ford Escort, 1.9-L, A/T
.17 Chevy Chevette, 1.6-gas, A/T

**—Estimated Interior Volume*

Econoblasters

.27 Golf GTI, 5-spd man.
.26 Dodge Omni GLH Turbo, 5-spd. man.
.26 Mercury Lynx XR3, HO 1.9-L, 5-spd man.
.25 Mitsubishi Mirage Turbo, 5-spd. man.
.24 Ford Escort GT 2-door hatchback, 5-spd. man.
.23 Jetta GLI, 5-spd man.
.22 Pontiac Sunbird S/E Turbo Coupe, 4-spd man.
.19 Chevy Cavalier Z24 Coupe, 4-spd man.
.19 Mitsubishi Tredia turbo, 5-spd. man.

Small Mid-Segment Family Cars

.25 VW Jetta, 1.8-L, 5-spd man. 4-door
.25 Mazda 626 Coupe, 5-spd
.20 Dodge Aries, 2.5-L, A/T, 4-door
.18 Mercury Topaz, 2.3-L, A/T, 4-door
.16 Olds Calais, 3.0-L V6, A/T, 2-door
.16 Nissan Stanza Wagon, 2.0-L, 5-spd man.
.14 Pontiac Grand AM SE, 3.0-L V6, 3-spd A/T, 4-door
.13 VW Quantum, 5-spd man.
.12 Nissan Maxima SE, 3.0-L V6, 5-spd man., 4-door
.10 Toyota Cressida, 2.8-L, 5-spd man., 4-door

Large Mid-Segment Family Cars

.17 Chevy Caprice Classic, 4.3-L V6, 3-spd A/T, 4-door
.15 Buick LeSabre Custom coupe, 3.8-L V6, 4-spd A/T
.15 Chevy Caprice Classic, 5.0-L V8, 4-spd. A/T, 4-door
.15 Ford Taurus GL, 3.0-L V6, 4-spd A/T, 4-door
.14 Olds Delta 88, 3.8-L V6, 4-spd A/T, 2-door
.13 Mercury Sable LS, 3.0-L V6, 4-spd A/T
.11 Ford Crown Victoria, 5.0-L V8, 4-spd A/T

Mid-Segment Sports/Sporty Cars

.21 Dodge Lancer, 2.2-L turbo, 3-spd A/T
.21 Ford Mustang GT, 5-spd man.
.20 Honda Prelude 2.0Si, 5-spd man.
.20 Mazda 626 GT Turbo Coupe, 5-spd. man.
.18 Chrysler LeBaron GTS, 2.2-L turbo, 3-spd A/T
.18 Buick Grand National, 3.8-L turbo V6, 4-spd A/T
.18 Toyota Celica GT-S, 5-spd man.
.17 VW Scirocco, 5-spd man.
.17 Honda Accord LXi sedan, 5-spd man.
.16 Chevy IROC-Z Camaro
.15 Buick Century T-Type, 3.8-V6, 4-spd A/T, 4-door
.14 Subaru XT Coupe Turbo, fwd, 5-spd man.
.14 VW Cabriolet, 5-spd man.
.13 Isuzu Impulse Turbo, 5-spd man.
.13 Buick Somerset T-Type, 3.0-L V6, 3-spd. A/T, 2-door
.11 Cadillac Cimarron, 2.8-L V6, A/T

Upper Segment Sports/Luxury Cars

.13 Saab 9000, 5-spd man.
.11 Volvo 740 Turbo station wagon, 5-spd.
.10 Mitsubishi Starion ESI-R, 5-spd man.
.10 Pontiac 6000 STE
.10 Saab 900S, 5-spd man., H-back
.09 Mazda RX-7 GXL, 5-spd man.
.09 Olds Toronado, 3.8-L V6, 4-spd. A/T
.09 Lincoln Mark VII LSC
.08 Audi 4000CS Quattro
.08 Cadillac DeVille
.08 BMW 325e, 5-spd. man. 4-door
.08 Buick Riviera T-Type
.07 Audi 5000CS Turbo Quattro
.07 BMW 524td
.06 Mercedes-Benz 190E 2.3-16, 5-spd man.
.06 300E Mercedes-Benz, 4-spd. A/T
.06 BMW 528e, 5-spd man.
.06 BMW 535i, 5-spd man.
.06 Lincoln Continental
.05 Cadillac Eldorado, 4.1-L V8, 4-spd A/T
.04 BMW 735i, 5-spd man.
.04 BMW 635CSi, 5-spd man.
.03 Porsche 911 Turbo
.03 Jaguar XJ-6 Vanden Plas, 4.2-L, A/T

Welcome To New Math

The Total Car Coefficient (don't send letters, I know it's not really a coefficient) is an index that distills four basic attributes of a car into one number. A car's roominess, EPA city mpg, acceleration speed and FOB or POE retail price are plugged into the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{interior Vol. (ft}^3\text{) x EPA City mpg}}{\text{0-60 mph Time x Retail Price}} \times 10 = \text{TCC}$$

The formula takes into account the positive value of roominess and fuel economy and the inverse value of 0-60 mph time and retail price. In other words, you want big numbers in roominess and fuel efficiency and little numbers in speed and price. We multiply by 10 simply to remove an empty decimal place.

Most people would argue that price plays the predominant role in the TCC. In defense we offer the Yugo, which costs a cool $1300 less than our winner and $2600 less than the second place Spectrum, yet the Yugo came in fourth. Both the Sprint and the Spectrum clearly benefited from their high fuel mileage numbers and quickness compared to the Yugo.

Chevy's Chevette lands at the bottom because with automatic transmission it went from 0-60 mph in 20 seconds. Additionally, its 25 mpg city fuel mileage isn't even in the running for an econobox anymore.

The Golf GTI won a hard-fought battle in the Econoblaster division, due to its good overall balance in all four areas. The Dodge Lancer Turbo and Ford Mustang beat out some world class competition in the Mid-Segment Sports/Sporty Car division, and Chevy's venerable V6 Caprice ended up on top in Mid-Segment Large Cars.

Saab's 9000 ran away with the Upper-Segment Sports/Sporty Car division mainly because of its bristling speed and cavernous interior regions.—*L.A.E.*